

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CU-02 EB-07
COME-00 ORM-02 SCA-01 VO-03 BIB-01 /096 W
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R 051502Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2608
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1164

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CZ, DA, UK,PO, GW, CA, SZ, GR, IT
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAKIA SEEKS CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE WITH
WESTERN GOVERNMENTS

REF PRAGUE 1117

1. SUMMARY: CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE BEEN PRESSING NATO COUNTRIES
FOR CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE AND HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIAL VISITS, WITH
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MINIMUM SUCCESS SO FAR. BAD INTERNATIONAL IMAGE IN WEST WITH RESPECT
TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND POLITICAL ISOLATION LOOM AS CONTINUING
PROBLEMS FOR CSSR IN HOME STRETCH BEFORE BELGRADE. END SUMMARY.

2. DENMARK: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DUSAN SPACIL VISITED
COPENHAGEN APRIL 20-21 AT HEAD OF THREE-MAN DELEGATION. WE
BELIEVE CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE DOUBTLESS PARALLELED THOSE SPACIL

HELD RECENTLY WITH THE FRENCH BUT DO NOT KNOW DETAILS. NOTABLY, HIS VISIT TO COPENHAGEN DID NOT PROVOKE THE PRESS TO ATTACK THE HUSAK REGIME WITH THE FERVOR SHOWN BY THE SWEDISH MEDIA DURING SPACIL'S TRIP TO STOCKHOLM, FEBRUARY 13-16.

3. BRITAIN: SPACIL HAD HOPED TO MAKE SIMILAR VISIT TO BRITAIN TO DISCUSS CSCE, BUT FOREIGN OFFICE TOLD CZECHOSLOVAKS THAT AS NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR PETER MALE IS DUE TO ARRIVE PRAGUE MAY 11, NO VISIT WAS NECESSARY AT SPACIL LEVEL. INSTEAD, BRITISH MAY 2 RECEIVED WORKING-LEVEL TEAM OF TWO, HEADED BY CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADOR TO LONDON. FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKS AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR ARE EXPECTED AFTER MAY 11, IN PRAGUE.

4. PORTUGAL: ACCORDING TO PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR HERE, CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE SHOWN INTEREST RECENTLY IN EXTENDING CREDITS TO PORTUGAL AND KEEPING LINES OPEN TO THE SOARES REGIME. CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK HAD BEEN FISHING FOR INVITATION TO VISIT LISBON, BUT PORTUGUESE PREFERRED A LOWER-LEVEL CONTACT AND WANTED IT TO BE IN PRAGUE, NOT LISBON. SECRETARY GENERAL OF PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTRY REPORTEDLY PROPOSED TO CZECH AMBASSADOR THAT SUCH A VISIT BE MADE TO PRAGUE INSTEAD OF CHNOUPEK VISIT TO LISBON. AT THIS END, PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR RAISED SAME POSSIBILITY WITH SPACIL, WHO REJECTED IT. QUESTION REMAINS OPEN.

5. WEST GERMANY: CZECHOSLOVAKS REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS IN MAY AT BONN AT POLITICAL DIRECTOR LEVEL, BUT GERMANS REFUSED ON GROUNDS THAT AS POLITICAL DIRECTOR WAS NEW IN HIS JOB, CONSULTATIONS CONFIDENTIAL

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SO EARLY ON MADE LITTLE SENSE. THERE MAY, HOWEVER, BE CONSULTATIONS IN JUNE.

6. CANADA: CANADIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL GOLDSCHLAG IS TO PROCEED TO PRAGUE MAY 13-14 AFTER LONDON SUMMIT FOR CSCE CONSULTATIONS WITH CZECHS. CANADIAN EMBASSY HERE WAS NOT OVERJOYED, BECAUSE THEY KNOW CZECHS WILL WANT A RETURN VISIT TO OTTAWA.

7. SWITZERLAND: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DISAN SPACIL WILL BE MEETING A SWISS MFA REPRESENTATIVE IN PRAGUE IN MID-MAY, ALSO FOR CSCE TALKS.

8. FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK MADE A QUICK STOP-OVER IN ATHENS APRIL 4 TO CONFER WITH FOREIGN MINISTER KITSIOS, BUT OFFICIAL VISIT CHNOUPEK WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ARRANGED HAS NOT BEEN AGREED TO BY GOG, SO FAR AS WE KNOW. GREEK AMBASSADOR PETROUNAKOS TOLD US CHNOUPEK ASKED FOR GUARANTEE THAT IF HE VISITED ATHENS, PERHAPS IN JUNE, THERE WOULD BE NO DEMONSTRATIONS OR BAD PRESS COVERAGE;

GREEKS REPLIED ON THE CONTRARY, CHNOUPEK WOULD LIKELY ENCOUNTER CONSIDERABLE HOSTILITY. CHNOUPEK MAY GO TO ATHENS IN JUNE BUT HAS BEEN CAUTIONED THAT IF HE GOES, HE WILL LIKELY ENCOUNTER CONSIDERABLE HOSTILITY.

9. ITALY: A WORKING-LEVEL CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION WILL HOLD CONSULTATIONS IN ROME IN MID-MAY ON CSCE. ITALIANS WERE NO MORE EAGER TO RECEIVE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL THAN WERE THE BRITISH.

10. UNITED STATES: DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL'S INABILITY TO PIN DOWN A DATE FOR HIS LONG-ANTICIPATED VISIT TO WASHINGTON--DUE TO BILATERAL POLITICAL STRAINS EMANATING MAINLY FROM THE EAST-WEST DEBATE OVER HUMAN RIGHTS--MAY BE A SPECIAL SOURCE OF FRUSTRATION FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

11. AUSTRIA. THE MOST FRUSTRATING CASE OF ALL TO THE CZECHOSLOVAKS, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, IS PROBABLY THEIR FAILURE TO WORK OUT PLANS FOR PRIME MINISTER STROUGAL'S TRIP TO VIENNA, WHICH WAS TO HAVE TAKEN PLACE THIS SPRING. CHANCELLOR KRIESKY'S OUTSPOKEN CRITICISM OF GOC HANDLING OF THE CHARTER 77 GROUP AND AUSTRIA'S DETERMINATION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE WHITSUN GATHERING OF THE SUDETEN DEUTSCHE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE PROMPTED THE CZECHS TO FOREGO STROUGAL'S TRIP TO VIENNA AT LEAST UNTIL THE FALL.

12. COMMENT: MORE SIGNIFICANT TO US THAN CONTENT OF DISCUSSIONS CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE MANAGED TO ARRANGE WITH THE NATO ALLIES WOULD SEEM TO BE CZECHOSLOVAKS EAGERNESS SIMPLY TO ARRANGE CONSULTATIONS WITH WESTERN COUNTRIES ON THE HIGHEST LEVEL POSSIBLE. THIS EFFORT TO COUNTER INTERNATIONAL ISOLATION IN THE MONTH LEADING UP TO BELGRADE PREP TALKS IS TO CONTINUE. CHARTER 77 ORGANIZERS' EFFORTS TO CAUSE EXTERNAL DIFFICULTIES FOR GOC IN APPROACHING BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP TALKS ON CSCE APPEAR TO BE BEARING FRUIT.
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